

in the Middle East back on track and to stop the resumption of violence between the Israelis and the Palestinians. I want to ask you to think just for a moment, as I close, about how many places in the world people are fighting each other because they're of a different religion, a different race, a different ethnic group, a different tribe: in Africa, Rwanda and Burundi; and Northern Ireland, where I've worked as hard as I could to restore the peace process; in Bosnia, where the United States and allies from all over the world are working to get people to live in peace, where there is literally no ethnic difference, even though they say they're different ethnic groups, they're in different religious groups, almost by accident of history.

You see, the whole world today—now that the cold war is over, we have reduced the threat of nuclear war; there are no nuclear weapons pointed at the children of the United States for the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age. But all over the world, we see terrorism; we see weapons of mass destruction; we see all of this violence rooted in people's desire to hurt other people because they're different from them.

And that's the last thing I want to leave you with. We can go into the 21st century as the strongest country in the world, with our best

days ahead, because America is not about looking down on somebody because they're different from you. All you've got to do to be an American is to believe in the principles of the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and show up tomorrow and be a law-abiding citizen. You can walk across our bridge to the 21st century. And I want you to commit to keep building that kind of American community where we grow and go together because our best days are still ahead.

Stay with us, and help us build that bridge to the 21st century. Will you do it? [Applause]

Thank you, and God bless you.

[At this point, Representative John LaFalce made brief remarks.]

The President. I neglected to say this when I was speaking, but I do believe the biggest Buffalo Bills fan in the entire United States, outside of Erie County, was my late mother and her husband, my stepfather. They're pulling for you every week. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. at the Greater Buffalo International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Anthony M. Masiello of Buffalo and Mayor James Galie of Niagara Falls, NY. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on Congressional Action on Federal Aviation Reauthorization Legislation

October 3, 1996

In passing the Federal Aviation Authorization Act today, Congress has responded to my request to act quickly on the recommendations of the Gore commission and approved an important piece of legislation that will improve the security of our airports and airlines.

Because of this legislation, criminal background checks can now be conducted on airport personnel, new explosives detection technology can be deployed, baggage will be checked more

thoroughly, passenger profiling will be instituted, and families who lose a loved one in an accident will be able to get the help that they need.

I congratulate the Congress and I thank the Vice President, as well as Secretary Pena and his team, for making this important legislation a reality which I look forward to signing into law.